

Eliminating Health Disparities

Session Type: Power Session

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Marilyn Kacica, MD, MPH

Medical Director

New York State Department of Health

Dr. Kacica is Medical Director of the Division of Family Health within the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). She provides leadership for NYS child and adolescent health activities, health informatics and preparedness. Dr. Kacica received her medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine and did her pediatric training at the Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis, MO. She served as a Pediatric Fellow in Infectious Diseases at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and completed a Preventive Medicine Residency and obtained her Master of Public Health from the State University of New York at Albany, and NYSDOH joint program. Dr. Kacica has been an attending physician at the Albany Medical College in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and was Medical Director of Epidemiology and Infection Control at the NYSDOH. She is a board certified Pediatrician and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She leads multiple quality improvement efforts in NYS.



Kristen Farina, MS

Program Coordinator

New York State Perinatal Quality Collaborative

New York State Department of Health, Division of Family Health

Kristen Farina is the Program Coordinator for the New York State Perinatal Quality Collaborative at the New York State Department of Health. Kristen manages and coordinates all program activities, including collaborations with key stakeholders and participation by over 100 NYS hospitals. Kristen's background includes a Master of Science in Health Communication from Boston University. She has been with the NYSDOH since 2005, having previously served as the Program Coordinator for the Medicaid for pregnant women program in the Office of Health Insurance Programs. She has also been employed as a Program Coordinator by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and as a Health Communication Lead at General Electric Power Systems.

Sharon Schindler Rising, MSN, CNM

CEO/ President

Centering Healthcare Institute

Sharon Schindler Rising is a certified nurse-midwife who graduated from Yale School of Nursing, taught on the faculty there and then established the graduate nurse-midwifery program and the Childbearing Childrearing Center at the University of Minnesota. In 1993-94 she developed and piloted the Centering Pregnancy model of group health care and began doing instructional workshops nationally and internationally. She is the President and CEO of the Centering Healthcare Institute, Inc., a non-profit

organization dedicated to improving health by transforming care through Centering groups. She also is on the clinical nursing faculty at the Yale School of Nursing and an adjunct professor at the University of Technology, Sydney, AU. She was awarded the Purpose Prize by Civic Ventures in December 2008 and in 2010 won the Trout Premier Cares Award, was named an Edge Runner by the American Academy of Nursing and received the Hattie Hemschemeyer award from the American College of Nurse-Midwives.



Julie Solomon, PhD

Program Evaluation Consultant
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Julie Solomon, Ph.D., Principal and Member of J. Solomon Consulting, LLC, has spent the past 13 years directing mixed-method evaluation and applied research projects in maternal and child health, youth sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention, and healthcare workforce development. She also provides evaluation consultation services to grantmakers, non-profits, governmental agencies, universities, and coalitions. Before founding her own company in 2008, Julie was a Senior Research Associate and the Director of Training Support at an applied social science research company in Los Altos, California. Julie is a volunteer for the Santa Clara County (California) Coalition for Alcohol and Drug-Free Pregnancies and the Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) Program of the American Psychological Association Office on AIDS. She has Ph.D. and A.M. degrees in linguistics from Stanford University and a B.A. in anthropology and Spanish literature from Brandeis University.